

Ashtabula County 4-H & Junior Fair Poultry Projects – 2015 Avian Influenza Plan

As you are aware the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has issued a statewide ban on all poultry exhibitions. This includes all junior fair and open shows and exhibitions, and all other gatherings of birds for show or for sale, including auctions and swap meets. While exhibition at a county, independent or state fair is a highlight for many young people and their families, we also know completion of project record books, engagement in specific learning opportunities, and completion of skillathons and other activities are what make the 4-H project a meaningful and complete educational learning experience.

We know this is a tremendous disappointment for our 4-H members taking poultry projects, their families and our county fair partners. We also know this is a very important precautionary measure necessary to help protect Ohio's sizable poultry production industry, as well as the many backyard flocks.

Ashtabula County 4-H and the Ashtabula County Fair Board stand behind this decision and are committed to helping provide resources and information. We recognize that many young people involved in 4-H poultry projects are impacted and will not have the opportunity to exhibit their live poultry projects.

4-H Poultry Project Completion

Ashtabula County 4-H Youth are expected to complete their 2015 Poultry Projects as identified on their enrollment form. Ohio 4-H does not endorse youth members switching or adding 4-H projects after the enrollment and possession deadlines. Agricultural and food animal production involves both rewards and risks. Weather and diseases are factors that can and do negatively impact production. Avian influenza is one such disease. Part of the overall 4-H experience is providing positive and supportive environments and experiences in which youth learn from the thrill of success. Equally important, youth members also learn to cope with the sting of disappointment. This is an opportunity to learn!

To complete the Poultry Project, members must:

- 1) Meet all requirements of the 4-H Club/FFA Chapter.
- 2) Have completed Quality Assurance training (if applicable) by June 1.
- 3) Complete Poultry Skillathon – Saturday, July 18 1:00 -4:00 p.m.
- 4) Complete an entry form by July 1 to sign up for Showmanship and participate in Showmanship at Fair (no live birds will be used) on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Awards will be given just as done previously on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- 5) Display a completed quality poster board presentation (one for each project an exhibitor is enrolled in) for the duration of fair in the poultry building. Posters must be created by the youth and must be turned in the Sunday or Monday prior to fair during animal drop-off. Topics may include: breeds, bio-security, disease pathogens, parts of the bird, uses, etc. Posters will be judged during Barn Judging Wednesday, Aug. 12 and displayed for public viewing. Posters may be removed Sunday after 7:00 p.m.
- 6) Youth with Poultry Production Projects may bring their eggs for judging if they have completed Skillathon for the Egg Production Project no later than Monday by 4:00 p.m. for judging Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Sale Participation:

Youth enrolled in a market poultry project for 2015 that have met ALL the above mentioned Poultry Project requirements will be eligible to participate in the 2015 Market Animal Sale on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 1:00 p.m.

- Market Turkey projects (1 bird per youth) will be sent for processing to Pleasant Valley Processing Monday, Aug. 3rd at 5:00 a.m. from the Jefferson Area Board of Ed. Office Parking Lot located at 121 S. Poplar St. in Jefferson. Youth must bring a picture of their project bird for the sale. Frozen processed birds will be available for pick up at the Extension Office Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 6:00 p.m.



- Chicken and Duck projects will be sold as project baskets (no eggs, birds, or alcohol). Baskets must be present at the Sale.

Other Optional Opportunities at Fair:

- Photo Contest – Show off your project! Bring a photograph of one or each (1 picture per project) of your poultry projects no larger than 8"x10" to display at the fair. Photos are due at animal drop-off Sunday and Monday by 5:00 p.m. and will be displayed in the barn. Fair-goers will be provided the opportunity to vote for their favorite and awards will be given in the following categories – Black and White, Most Colorful, Most Creative & Best Bird.
- Avian Bowl – Get your teams together! Youth are invited to form teams of 3-4 individuals based on the following 4-H age categories – Juniors (ages 8-12) and Seniors ages (13 and up) to take part in an Avian Bowl Quiz Challenge Wednesday morning of Fair at 9:00 a.m. in the MAC Arena. Teams must be identified to the Species Chairs by 4:00 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10. The oldest youth participant will determine the age group.

Dr. Forshey, State Veterinarian for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, offers these recommendations of bio-security practices for ALL poultry owners.

- Monitor flocks for unusual signs of illness such as lethargy, depression, wheezing, "snicking" (sneezing) or decrease in egg production.
- Practice personal biosecurity and avoid contact with sick/dead poultry or wildlife. If contact occurs, wash your hands with soap and water and change clothing.
- Keep unauthorized visitors from having contact with poultry. Authorized persons should wear protective clothing and shoes.
- Avoid contact between your birds and wild birds.
- Clean and disinfect farm vehicles or equipment before moving them on and off your property.

Despite the severity of the outbreak of illness in birds, no human infections have been associated with the virus. Consumers should follow basic food safety practices including fully cooking poultry to the proper temperature and preventing cross-contamination between raw and cooked food.

Sick birds or unusual bird deaths should be immediately reported to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health at 1-614-728-6220. Additional information on biosecurity from USDA APHIS for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov> or www.ohioagriculture.gov.

Please contact 4-H Educator, Jenna Hoyt at hoyt.88@osu.edu or 440-576-9008 with any questions.